

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 08109 080824Z

10

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 L-03 H-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05 IO-13

IGA-02 EB-07 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 /083 W

----- 114380

O 080747Z OCT 76

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9936

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

CINCPAC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 8109

SECDEF FOR DSAA/ISA/SA

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, XX

SUBJ: NSSM 243-MMAG REQUIREMENTS STUDY

REF: (A) STATE 24931 (DTG 070404Z OCT 76, (B) CJUSMAG-K
030745Z MAR 76 (NOTAL), (C) SEOUL 3757 (DTG 200714Z
MAY 76), (D) SEOUL 7114 (DTG 090239Z SEP 76),
(E) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
TO REPUBLIC OF KOREA, 11 SEP 76 (PART II, SECTION H,
SERVICES)

1. I AM DEEPLY CONCERNED WITH LIKELY EFFECTS OF PRECIPITATE
REDUCTION IN MAG ON SCALE INDICATED REF A. REF C PRESENTED
A REASONED TIMETABLE FOR PHASED REDUCTION OF MAG STRENGTH,
WHICH WOULD PERMIT REACHING ROUGHLY THE LEVEL PROPOSED IN
REF A BY FY 81, WITH THE ROKG PROVIDING NEARLY ALL NECESSARY
FUNDING BY THAT DATE. HOWEVER, A REDUCTION IN THE PRESENT
PROGRAM IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE BY NEARY 50 PERCENT WOULD GRAVELY
DISRUPT THE ENTIRE MAG EFFORT. WE REGARD THIS EFFORT
AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN ATTAINMENT OF U.S. OBJECTIVES
IN KOREA.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 SEOUL 08109 080824Z

2. JUSMAG-K EFFORTS ARE NOW CONCENTRATED ON PROVIDING

ASSISTANCE AT HIGHEST LEVELS OF MANAGEMENT IN THE ROK MILITARY ESTABLISHMENT. THERE IS NO QUESTION OF ROK CAPABILITY TO PERFORM WELL AT NEARLY WFY LEVEL OF CONFLICT OVER THE SHORT TERM. THEIR WEAKNESS LIES PRIMARILY IN PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, BUDGET AND OTHER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT TASKS. UNTIL TWO YEARS AGO THESE FUNCTIONS WERE LAREGLY PERFORMED BY U.S. PERSONNEL. THEY ARE BEING TAKEN OVER BY ROKG AS PART OF CONTINUAL PHASE-OUT OF U.S. ASSISTANCE PROGRAM AND KOREAN EFFORTS AT DEVELOPING INCREASINGLY INDEPENDENT MILITARY CAPABILITY. AS PART OF THIS PROCESS, JUSMAG-K HAS ALREADY UNDERGONE VERY SIGNIFICANT STRENGTH REDUCTIONS (SEE REF C). THIS EFFORT CAN BE SUCCESSFUL IF IT IS PURSUED IN ORDERLY FASHION BUT TOO RAPID A TRANSITION WILL BE COSTLY. JUSMAG-K HAS BEEN CAREFULLY TAILORED OVER THE PAST YEARS TO ASSIST IN DEVELOPING ROK MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES. THE NEXT TWO YEARS APPEAR TO BE CRITICAL IN THIS EFFORT AND DRASTIC REDUCTION IN THAT PERIOD WOULD NEGATE MANY OF THE EFFORTS MADE TO DATE.

3. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THAT SHORT-TERM EFFORTS BY TRAINING ASSISTANCE FIELD TEAMS OR TDY PERSONNEL WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN THIS ASSISTANCE EFFORT, (DURING THEIR INSTITUTIONAL BUILDING PROCESS) WHICH DEPENDS HEAVILY ON ESTABLISHMENT OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS AND CONFIDENCE IN INDIVIDUALS.

4. OTHER POINTS TO BEAR IN MIND ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A. IMMEDIATE REDUCTION OF MAG ON SCALE PROPOSED WOULD BE INCONSISTENT WITH WHAT WE UNDERSTAND TO HAVE BEEN THE THRUST OF REPORT TO CONGRESS PRESENTED SEPTEMBER 30. A PROPOSAL OF THIS SORT WOULD IMPLY THAT JUSMAG-K HAS BEEN SERIOUSLY OVERSTAFFED, IN ADMINISTRATION'S VIEW. WE DO NOT BELIEVE THIS IS THE CASE, NOR DID TEAM FROM OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FOR FOREIGN ASSISTANCE, WHICH RECENTLY COMPLETED INSPECTION OF KOREAN MAG WITH LIMITED RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PERSONNEL CUTS THAT APPEARED REASONABLE.

C. TOO RAPID CUTBACKS WOULD SERIOUSLY INHIBIT USG ABILITY TO FOLLOW DEVELOPMENTS IN KEY AREAS OF GREAT CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 SEOUL 08109 080824Z

IMPORTANCE TO US IN KOREA.

D. REDUCTION OF MAGNITUDE PROPOSED WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY HAVE SOME POLITICAL IMPACT TENDING TO BELIE ASSURANCES WE HAVE BEEN GIVING KOREANS RE OUR STEADFASTNESS.

E. ROKG HAS ONLY RECENTLY AGREED TO BEGIN TO ASSUME AN EVER-INCREASING SHARE OF MAG COSTS PREDICATED UPON

CONTINUED EXISTENCE OF THE MAG AT A LEVEL CONSISTENT WITH PROGRAMS ALREADY UNDERWAY OR PROJECTED FOR THE NEAR FUTURE. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A MAG AS WELL AS ROKG CONTRIBUTIONS ARE PRESCRIBED IN ANNEX B OF 1954 BILATERAL TREATY.

5. WITH REFERENCE TO PARAGRAPH B, WE ASSUME THAT NO REDUCTIONS WERE CONSIDERED IN OUR STAFFING BASED ON ASSUMPTION THAT JUSMAG/K WAS INVOLVED IN ADVISORY, TRAINING AND SURVEY FUNCTIONS. JUSMAG/K IS NOT INVOLVED IN THESE ACTIVITIES. IT DOES HOWEVER SERVICE THE IMET PROGRAM BY PROVIDING CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE FUNCTIONS IN SUPPORT OF IMET.

6. IN SUMMARY, I FULLY SHARE THE VIEW OF THE CHIEF, JUSMAG-K THAT THE FUNCTIONS CURRENTLY PERFORMED BY JUSMAG-K ARE ESSENTIAL TO THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROK NATIONAL DEFENSE CAPABILITY AND ARE DESERVING OF CONTINUED USG SUPPORT AT THE PRESENT LEVEL. THERE CAN BE LITTLE QUESTION BUT THAT THE NEXT TWO YEARS WILL BE PARTICULARLY CRUCIAL FOR BOTH ROKG AND USG INTERESTS. I THEREFORE STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT ANY REDUCTION IN JUSMAG-K BE BASED ON PROGRAM OUTLINED REF C.
STERN

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ADVISERS, MILITARY ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 OCT 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SEOUL08109
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760379-1321
From: SEOUL
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19761067/aaaacgbo.tel
Line Count: 140
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 24931
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 MAR 2004 by morefirh>; APPROVED <23 SEP 2004 by KelleyW0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NSSM 243-MMAG REQUIREMENTS STUDY
TAGS: MASS, XX
To: STATE DOD
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006